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Title: Need to create compensatory afforestation fund for forest and other wildlife care services.

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): The Compensatory Afforestation Fund seeks to create an institutional mechanism to utilise the funds for afforestation and other wildlife care and ecological services under the central and state monitoring bodies. It will give a major boost to increase green cover in country under a law.

Sir, whenever a forest is deforested for non-forestry purpose, the user has to deposit a prescribed amount to carry out compensatory afforestation. The money deposited in different nationalized banks has accumulated to Rs. 38000 crore and unspent account is lying with the bank.

Sir, besides utilizing the unspent amount, a new body may be created both at the central and state levels to ensure proper utilization of funds.

Further, maximum percentage of the deposited money may be given to states for afforestation works. Moreover, utilization of the amount will also generate employment opportunities in rural areas.